



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re of Applicant)
Takahashi TAKAHASHI) Art Group: 1753
Serial No.: 09/268,948)
Filing Date: March 16, 1999)
Title: IRON NITRITE FILM HAVING) Examiner: G. CANTELMO
A NITROGEN MARTENSITE)
 α' PHASE WITH α (200))
SURFACE)

#21/c
6-14-02

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RESPONSE

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated December 7, 2001, having a due date of March 7, 2002, which has been extended by three months by the contemporaneously filed Petition of Extension of Time, now having a due date of June 7, 2002, Applicant hereby submits the following Amendment and RCE.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 10-13 are pending and rejected in the present application.

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 2 to more particularly point out and distinctly claims the subject matter of the present application. Applicant respectfully submits that none of the amendments to the claims constitute new matter.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2 and 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Takahashi 1993. Amended claim 1 of the present application recites iron nitride thin film produced using an N_2 gas flow rate ratio of 25% permitting diffraction rays from a γ' phase to be observed. Since the Takahashi 1993 reference does not describe or show the iron